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10. SOME OBSERVATIONS ON NESTING OF BONELLI'S EAGLE *HIERAAETUS FASCIATUS* (VIEILLOT)

During our regular treks for bird watching, we have observed a rare phenomenon not reported elsewhere. This year, for the third year in succession, the same pair of Bonelli's eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* (Vieillot) has nested at the same site, building their third nest on top of the previous two nests. The total height of the nest has now reached a massive 0.9 m; sticks of various trees gathered from the vicinity have been used to build this c. 1 m wide nest. The nest is at a height of c. 12 m on a jambul *Syzygium cumini* (L.) tree

on the slope of Pavangadh, 962 m above msl, 18 km northwest of Kolhapur city, and is lined with fresh green leaves. Nesting at the same site by the same pair is a phenomenon we have not observed in other Bonelli's eagle pairs elsewhere in the surrounding hilly region.

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11. STATUS OF WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE *HALIAEETUS LEUCOGASTER* IN RATNAGIRI DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA

The white-bellied sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* is thinly, but widely distributed and is listed as vulnerable in the Indian RED DATA BOOK. No data on the status and population of this species is available. Its present status, along the 164 km coastline, in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra, is given on the basis of a survey undertaken in the district during 1996-97 and 1997-98. We located 62 nests during our survey. The identity of the bird was confirmed from the HANDBOOK.

The species is resident along the seaboard and offshore islands from about 19° N of Mumbai down the west coast and up the east to

Bangladesh, Laccadive Is. (now Lakshadweep), Sri Lanka, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and is vagrant in Gujarat (Ali and Ripley 1978).

We undertook a survey to determine the present status and distribution of the white-bellied sea-eagle in Ratnagiri district, as the species is found throughout the coastline of this district.

Ratnagiri district is situated in the Konkan region of Maharashtra State (16.30°-18.04° N and 73.02°-73.52° E). The coastline of the district is about 164 km long and is uniformly rocky and shallow. Various bluffs and promontories enclose small sandy beaches,